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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CISNEROS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr., Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for giving us another day.

Your loving kindness, grace, and mercy have blessed us with all good and perfect gifts, which we know come from You, and with grateful hearts we say thank You.

You have promised to supply all of our needs according to Your riches in glory, and with this in mind, we thank You for the opportunity to serve the people of this great country.

Help us to be truly concerned about others. Locked together, we can withstand the storms of life. How true of us. We need the help of others.

We pray, especially, for the Members of the House. Please endow them with the wisdom they need as they work individually and collectively to accomplish the agendas set before them. And this country will be wiser, stronger, and better because they have tabernacled here today.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHNEIDER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND JESSE BERNARD BILBERRY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr.'s lifetime of service.

Reverend Bilberry has dedicated nearly four decades of pastoral service and educational leadership throughout the State of Louisiana. I am proud to have Reverend Bilberry as my constituent. He just recently retired from the historic Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Scotlandville, Louisiana, and was named pastor emeritus.

Reverend Bilberry began his career in service as an officer in the United States Army, and we owe him a deep seed of gratitude for his service to our country.

After an honorable discharge from the Army, Reverend Bilberry spent several years as an administrator at Southern University, ending his tenure there as director of admissions.

Reverend Bilberry has distinguished himself as a well-respected community and religious leader both at home and abroad. From leading missionaries in the West Indies to leading several service-oriented organizations and his church, Reverend Bilberry has led a life of compassion and courage that has resonated with the people of Baton Rouge and throughout the State of Louisiana.

I thank Reverend Bilberry for his tireless contributions serving his community throughout his career in ministry and education.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CONCERNS

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans support the Corporation for National and Community Service and all of its volunteer organizations like AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Senior Corps. President Trump's 2020 budget eliminates the Corporation and all the volunteer activities our communities rely on.

As we speak, the Corporation's CEO is executing a plan to close all 46 State offices in the next 90 days, which they are calling the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. Contrary to its name, this plan is a step towards accomplishing the administration's ultimate goal of eliminating national service and abandoning local volunteers and stakeholders.

Last month, the Corporation's own inspector general reported to Congress:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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